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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

October 4, 1947

TOP SECRET

Dear Ed:

I enclose a note of the points I made to you on September 29th about the special group of German nuclear physicists in Germany. My letter to you of May 15 last refers.

2. You will see that London in effect proposes a new solution, namely that the travel restrictions on "the ten" should be removed and that, instead, arrangements should be made for special intelligence surveillance of all Germans whose ability in the atomic energy field makes them of potential value to Russia, including of course "the ten", if they all still come within this category. This suggestion may fit in quite well, since we understand that the J.I.O.A. are making a study of the surveillance problem with regard to German scientists and technicians in the American area of Germany and that they have made inquiries about the situation in our zone.

3. We hope that the undesirability of removing "the ten" will be agreed and that the matter can be closed on the new basis suggested.

Yours ever,

David Bruce

R. D. Murphy

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Coordinate with Dept of State and Def 10/1/47

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"The ten" are not, in fact, the ten most able German physicists in the atomic energy field.

Removal from Germany should be considered with reference to all those Germans whose ability in the atomic energy field make them of potential value to Russia. The Department of Atomic Energy has undertaken to consider preparation of a list of such Germans in the British and U.S. zones.

Enforced removal of any or all of these men from Germany is most undesirable. Such treatment would undoubtedly lessen our prestige and that of the U.S. authorities. It would also be likely to lower the resistance of remaining scientists to Russian enticement, thus to some extent offsetting the security gain resulting from removing the principal atomic physicists.

We feel strongly therefore that these men should remain in Germany.

We still believe that the removal of travel restrictions placed on "the ten" would be advantageous. Since "the ten" are not truly representative of the best in their field, the restrictions are to that extent valueless. Placing new restrictions on the men of the new list would be very difficult to justify to the Germans at this stage. Instead, we suggest that all those on the new list should be subject to special intelligence surveillance so that any evidence of Russian interest would be detected and acted upon at once. Ostensibly neither "the ten" nor any other group of German scientists would be treated differently from other Germans.

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